

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of dispensing game tickets comprising:
receiving a ticket request;
selecting a game ticket based on the ticket request; and
activating the game ticket based on a ticket radio frequency identifier (RFID) that defines a validation code of the game ticket.
2. The method of claim 1 further including:
reading the ticket RFID from a memory of the game ticket; and
sending information contained in the ticket RFID and an activation request toward a host computer.
3. The method of claim 2 further including:
receiving an activation reply; and
dispensing the game ticket if the activation reply indicates that the game ticket is valid.
4. The method of claim 3 further including updating a ticket-by-ticket inventory listing if the game ticket is dispensed.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein the activation reply includes a security code which indicates whether the game ticket has been activated and whether the game ticket is a winning ticket, the method further including writing the security code to the memory of the lottery ticket.
6. The method of claim 2 further including:
transmitting an excitation signal, the excitation signal to cause the game ticket to transmit the ticket RFID; and
detecting the transmitted RFID.

7. The method of claim 2 wherein the validation code includes a batch number and a ticket number corresponding to the game ticket.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the game ticket is a lottery ticket.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the lottery ticket is an instant lottery ticket.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the lottery ticket is a future draw lottery ticket.

11. A method of validating game tickets, comprising:
receiving a validation request; and
reading a ticket radio frequency identifier (RFID) from a memory of a game ticket based on the request, the ticket RFID defining a validation code corresponding to the game ticket.

12. The method of claim 11 further including:
sending information contained in the ticket RFID toward a host computer;
receiving a validation reply to the ticket RFID; and
generating a validation message based on the validation reply.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the validation reply indicates whether the game ticket has been activated and whether the game ticket is a winning ticket.

14. The method of claim 11 further including:
reading a security code from the memory of the game ticket, the security code to indicate whether the game ticket has been activated and whether the game ticket is a winning ticket; and
generating a validation message based on the security code.

15. The method of claim 11 further including:
transmitting an excitation signal, the excitation signal to cause the game ticket to transmit the ticket RFID; and
detecting the transmitted RFID.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the validation code includes a batch number and a ticket number corresponding to the game ticket.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the game ticket is a lottery ticket.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the lottery ticket is an instant lottery ticket.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the lottery ticket is a future draw lottery ticket.

20. A method of managing a lottery ticketing system, comprising:
receiving a first message including information contained in a ticket radio frequency identifier (RFID) and an activation request, the ticket RFID defining a validation code of a lottery ticket;
comparing the validation code to a list of known validation codes;
authorizing dispensing of the lottery ticket if the validation code matches one of the known validation codes;
flagging the validation code as being activated;
receiving a second message including the ticket RFID and a validation request;
verifying that the validation code has been flagged as being activated;
comparing the validation code to a list of winning validation codes; and
authorizing redemption of the lottery ticket if the validation code matches one of the winning validation codes and if the validation request defines a proper prize based on the winning validation code.

21. The method of claim 20 further including sending an activation reply toward an activation terminal, the activation reply indicating that the lottery ticket is valid.

22. The method of claim 20 further including denying dispensing authorization if the validation code does not match one of the known validation codes.

23. The method of claim 22 further including sending an activation reply toward an activation terminal, the activation reply indicating that the lottery ticket is invalid.

24. The method of claim 20 further including sending a validation reply toward a validation terminal, the validation reply indicating that the lottery ticket is a winning lottery ticket.

25. The method of claim 20 further including denying redemption authorization if the validation code does not match one of the winning validation codes or if the validation request does not define a proper prize based on the winning validation code.

26. The method of claim 25 further including sending a validation reply toward a validation terminal, the validation reply indicating that the lottery ticket may not be redeemed.

27. The method of claim 20 further including updating a ticket tracking database based on the first message.

28. The method of claim 20 further including updating a ticket tracking database based on the second message.

29. A machine readable medium comprising a set of stored instructions capable of being executed to:

receive a validation request; and

read a ticket radio frequency identifier (RFID) from a memory of a game ticket based on the request, the ticket RFID defining a validation code corresponding to the game ticket.

30. The medium of claim 29 wherein the instructions are further capable of being executed to:

send information contained in the ticket RFID toward a host computer;

receive a validation reply to the information contained in the ticket RFID from the host computer; and

generate a validation message based on the validation reply.

31. The medium of claim 29 wherein the instructions are further capable of being executed to transmit an excitation signal, the excitation signal to cause the game ticket to transmit the ticket RFID.

32. A system comprising:
a processor; and
a machine readable storage medium including a set of stored instructions capable of being executed by the processor to receive a validation request and read a ticket radio frequency identifier (RFID) from a memory of a game ticket based on the request, the ticket RFID defining a validation code corresponding to the game ticket.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein the instructions are further capable of being executed by the processor to send information contained in the ticket RFID toward a host computer, receive a validation reply to the information contained in the ticket RFID from the host computer and generate a validation message based on the validation reply.

34. The system of claim 32 wherein the instructions are further capable of being executed to transmit an excitation signal, the excitation signal to cause the game ticket to transmit the ticket RFID.

35. A game ticket comprising:
a substrate including game data and a removable mask covering the game data; and
a transponder coupled to the substrate, the transponder storing a ticket radio frequency identifier (RFID) that defines a validation code of the game ticket.

36. The game ticket of claim 35 wherein the transponder includes:
a read only memory (ROM) storing the ticket RFID; and
an antenna coupled to the ROM.

37. The game ticket of claim 35 wherein the game data is lottery game data.
38. The game ticket of claim 37 wherein the lottery game data is instant lottery game data.